

FOREWORD

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is committed to increasing the participation of underrepresented groups both in the Foundation and in its programs supporting research and education in science and engineering. One of NSF's strategic goals, as outlined in the Government Performance and Results Act Strategic Plan FY 1997–2003, is to “strive for a diverse, globally oriented workforce of scientists and engineers.” Underpinning this goal is a recognition that “a diverse science and engineering workforce that is representative of the American public and able to respond effectively to a global economy is vitally important to America's future.”

This report, the 10th in a biennial series, provides data on the participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in science and engineering education and employment. The data and analyses presented here can be used to track progress, inform the development of policies to increase participation in science and engineering, and evaluate the effectiveness of such policies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita R. Colwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rita" being more prominent.

Rita R. Colwell
Director